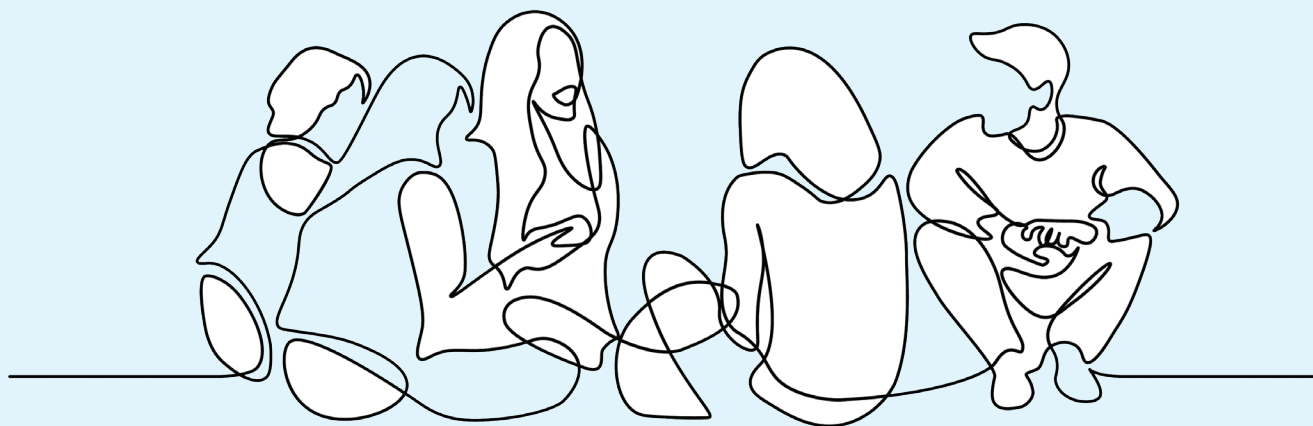


Advocacy in Action: Get to Know the National ACDA Standing Committees



ACDA has seven national standing committees that serve the membership on the day-to-day tasks. In this issue, we advocate for those fellow standing committees by providing a space for you to get to know who they are, what they do, and how they can support you!

Standing Committee for Choral Repertoire and Resources

What is the committee's mission?

We source and curate widely varied and diverse repertoire and resources for ACDA members and the wider choral community.

What does the committee provide for ACDA members?

ACDA is about repertoire and its authentic, expert and artistic performance. The Repertoire & Resources Committee serves ACDA members 365 days a year. We serve conference-going members by providing Virtual Reading Sessions to all ACDA members whether conference attendees or not. We prepare Deep Dive sessions for chairs to guide conference attendees through four

to five pieces, offering expertise to add those pieces to their personal and professional repertoire. Finally, each chair curates their own forum, or interest session, to further meet the needs of members. Since 2023 we've also focused on providing experiences and events for members who can't attend a National Conference.

Who is included on the committee?

Collegiate Activities

- Collegiate Choirs Coordinator: Jenny Bent
- Four-Year University Choirs Chair: Caron Daley
- Two-Year Community Choirs Chair: Brandon Elliott
- Student Activities Co-Chair for Programming: Elizabeth Swanson
- Student Activities Co-Chair for Chapter Development: Ryan Beeken

Youth Choirs

- Youth Choirs Coordinator: Damion Womack

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• Children & Community Youth Chair:
Joy Hirokawa

• Junior High/Middle School Chair:
Clinton Hardy-Ferrie

• Senior High Chair: Philip Brown

Lifelong Choirs

• Lifelong Choirs Coordinator: Jack Cleghorn

• Community Choirs Chair: Matt Hill

• Music in Worship Chair: Jennaya Robison

Repertoire Specific Choirs

• Repertoire Specific Coordinator:
Gretchen Harrison

• World Musics and Cultures Chair:
Madlen Batchvarova

• S/A Choirs: Erin Plisco

• T/B Choirs: Dustin Cates

• Vocal Jazz: John Stafford

• Contemporary Commercial Co-Chair/
Contemporary A Cappella: Rob Dietz

• Contemporary Commercial Co-Chair/
Show Choir: Kelsey Burkett

How can members connect with the committee?

Feel free to reach out directly to any of the National R&R chairs at any time. Their names and contact information are available at <https://acda.org/about-us/acda-leadership>.

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Standing Committee for Diversity Initiatives

What is the committee's mission?

The Diversity Initiatives Committee of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) aims to foster diversity and inclusivity in our membership, ensembles, repertoire, and offerings through active engagement with underrepresented and historically marginalized choral musicians and potential choral participants. We will bring about a broader definition and understanding of choral excellence both as a result of this inclusivity and to maintain our relevance and expand both the reach and impact of our profession and its musical scope.

Who is included on the committee?

Chair: Arreon Harley-Emerson; Members: Ahmed Anzaldúa, Noël Archambeault, Mari Esabel Valverde, and Josh Palkki

What does the committee provide for ACDA members?

At the heart of our work, the Diversity Initiatives Committee is committed to truth-seeking and truth-telling. In doing so, we are both proactive and responsive. The DIC proactively works across the organization to ensure more equitable policies and intentional inclusion in the choral arts, most especially within ACDA. We also respond to real-world events in real time, assisting the organization in delivering on its commitments to ADEI. We serve as an advisory board for the National Board, Executive Committee, and the Executive Director.

Diversity has many facets and intersectionalities. Diversity can reference and celebrate culture, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, age, and religious ideals, among others. While we have not always been open, affirming, accepting,

and embracing in the past, we now recognize our shortcomings and resolve to address them. Our members represent a diverse community and deserve to be acknowledged and treated with dignity. We welcome you into our community of support and partnership.

How can members connect with the committee?

We welcome the membership to get more involved with our committee and with our organization as a whole. Members can send us an email at dic@acda.org, and join our thriving Facebook community, "ACDA Diversity Initiatives." We also welcome submissions to the DIC's *Choral Journal* column, "Lift Every Voice." We are always looking for members to share lived experiences and promising practices related to ADEI. On occasion, the DIC launches task forces to execute large projects on behalf of the association.

Standing Committee for Education and Communication

What is the committee's mission?

The mission of the ACDA National Standing Committee on Education and Communication is to foster and support educational initiatives that provide professional development and resources for emerging, mid-career, and late-career ACDA members as well those initiatives focused on inspiring the next generation of choral professionals. The standing committee assists with encouraging authors for online and print publication.

Who is included on the committee?

Chair: John McDonald; Members: Robert Sinclair, Mark Lawley, Grant Farmer

Resources:

Web-based professional development is available on the ACDA website. This committee has hosted several national webinars that are available for free (<https://acda.org/conferences/national-webinars>).

Education and Communication *Choral Journal* focus issue (September 2020)

List of recommended reading for K-12 choral teachers in *ChorTeach* (Summer 2022)

Standing Committee for International Activities (SCIA)

Who is included on the committee?

Chair: Joshua Habermann; Members: Nicolás Dosman, Jeremy Jones, Wendy Moy, and Giselle Wyers

What is the committee's mission?

To create connections between leaders of the U.S. choral community with counterparts across the globe.

To forge stronger relationships between ACDA and choral associations around the world.

To raise the visibility and leadership role of the American Choral Directors Association in the global choral community.

What does the committee provide for ACDA members?

The committee hosts a reception for international guests at the National Conference and has a presence in the regions during region years. If anyone is interested in hosting a visiting international conductor in their region, we can help facilitate.

The committee is responsible for the ACDA Inter-

national Conductors Exchange Program (ICEP), which provides annual opportunities for ACDA members to apply for an exchange program with the international community. ACDA members travel to the host country for an exchange experience and also host our international partners at an ACDA region or national conference. More information about the ICEP can be found at <https://acda.org/resources/icep>.

How can members connect with the committee?

ACDA International Activities Facebook page “ACDA International Activities” or via email: internationalactivities@acda.org

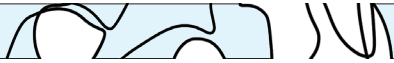
Standing Committee for Research & Publications

Who is included on the committee?

Chair: Jessica Napoles; Members: Elisa Dekaney, Patrick Freer, and Elizabeth Parker

What is the committee's mission?

Broadly speaking, we work to amplify the role of research and scholarship in our profession. Practically speaking, we also approve editorial members (including editor) for the *International Journal of Research in Choral Singing*, (*IJRCS*) ACDA's research journal; appoint the Research Report column editor for the *Choral Journal*; and assist with the planning for the Symposium for Research in Choral Singing. For the national ACDA conference, we facilitate the Research Poster Session. If you are interested in furthering our goal of amplifying research endeavors in the choral profession, please consider submitting a manuscript for publication in the *International Journal for Choral Singing* or a proposal for the Research Poster Session.



Standing Committee for Composition Initiatives

Who is included on the committee?


Chair: Robert Bode; Members: Brandon Boyd, Katie Houts, and Joni Jensen

What is the committee's mission?

Officially, we're the Composition Initiatives Standing Committee. But our work is more than just "initiatives." You can find more in our *Choral Journal* Focus Issue (March/April 2023). Our committee encourages the creation of quality new music for choruses of all sizes, ages, and abilities by actively supporting the work of living composers. We advocate for the composer membership of ACDA and seek to foster increased collaboration and awareness between conductors and composers.

From Dan Forrest in the editor's column in the March/April 2023 focus issue: "As our committee advocates for composers, we've received such encouraging support from Robyn Hilger and the national leadership. Composers can now join ACDA as 'Composers' instead of having to choose some other primary activity. Our slate of annual awards has been doubled, with new prize amounts that re-establish ACDA prizes as some of the most substantial awards in the choral composition world; the new flexible Focus Prize nurtures the creation of repertoire to fill identified gaps for ACDA members and their ensembles, and connects choral publishers to composers. Brock Prize and Brock Commission pieces are being performed at every conference (even regional conferences), and we continue to offer and promote new and existing channels through which composers can network with each other as well as conductors."

How can members connect with the committee?

Take advantage of the Composer Membership option, and stay engaged on both our Facebook pages: "New Choral Music" and "ACDA Choral Composers." You can also email rbode@acda.org 

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